



June 2011

News from Madison County Commission District 6 Commissioner Bob Harrison

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Greetings!

I hope this summer is meeting all of your expectations and more. While our kids enjoy some time to off after a strenuous academic year, its important that we recognize their accomplishments. This issue of my monthly E-newsletter will focus on several educational initiatives worth noting in District 6. As our current school system faces new leadership, it is important that even during the summer months we remain focused and steadfast in our commitments to increasing the quality of education for our children. I have included an article about my recent trip to China. Even as I grow older, I recognize that every moment presents an opportunity to learn something new. My trip was educational and I learned a wealth of information. I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter, and please encourage others to join and become plugged into the current projects and initiatives underway in District 6!

Yours in Service,
Bob

Northwest Huntsville School First In Math®!

Rolling Hills Fourth Graders Rank 9th in Nation

Madison County District 6 would like to extend special congratulations to Rolling Hills Elementary School. For the past two years the school has been using the First In Math® online program, which is designed for students in grades K-8.

The program seeks to enhance problem solving and critical thinking skills through fun and engaging math exercises. It starts with simple addition and progresses through Algebra. As students meet the requirements for each skill set they move to more challenging problem

solving. Students across the state use the program, and compete against one another. TaNeya McGlathery, a fourth grader at Rolling Hills ranked first in her class, and first out of 2,635 fourth graders in Alabama who participated in First In Math® this year. All exercises are timed, and students are allowed to play bonus games to practice their skills and build proficiency.

Students earn points for each three questions they answer correctly. For the 2010-2011 school year, Rolling Hills fourth graders rank 1st in the state and 9th overall the in the nation!



Commissioner pictured with students at Rolling Hills Elementary School

While most students use Spring Break as an opportunity to kick back and relax,

these students decided to head to the lab to practice their skills! Commissioner Harrison opened his computer lab at the Northwest Community Learning Center to allow students without Internet and home computers to sharpen their math skills and accrue additional points. Transportation was also provided for students to the facility located at 3408 Blue Springs Road in Huntsville.

First In Math® is a national standards based program. Students at Rolling Hills have the opportunity to connect and compete with students across the nation. Teachers can utilize the program to aide in preparation for Alabama Math and Reading tests. The response from students have been overwhelming excitement and eagerness to participate.

Below see student reflections from their First In Math® experience:

"I enjoyed doing First in Math. First in Math helps you practice more. I enjoyed First in Math because you can challenge other students across the world and in your school. I thank the Commissioner for picking us up." ~ Joshua T.

" I had 0 points, and now I have 4,989 points"~ Miah E.

" I love First in Math!"~ Marc H.

" I like working on First in Math. Thank you Mrs. Strong for taking us to the tutoring lab." ~ Jayvon J.

We invite you, the community to join us in celebrating this tremendous achievement. So often we only hear the negative stories regarding low test scores and expected system cuts. This is truly a laudable accomplishment, and we commend Principal Scott and the faculty at Rolling Hills for their steadfast leadership. Congratulations students and keep practicing your skills!

We also would like to recognize our Project Focus graduates! This is a special program operated through District 6 that provides individual leadership and mentoring to former offenders. For the 2010- 2011 academic year, 15 Project Focus participants completed post secondary course work requirements. For more information about this program contact Alice Sams at (256)551-1319 or asams@co.madison.al.us.

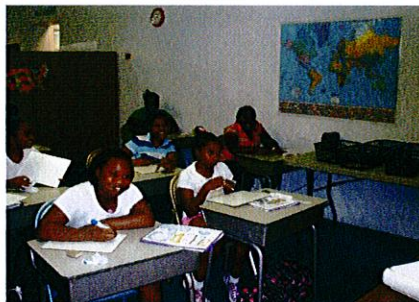
Northwest Community Learning Center Summer Enrichment Program

Commissioner Marks 6th Year of NCLC Summer Program

The Northwest Community Learning Center offers a free summer enrichment program for students in Northwest Huntsville sponsored by Commissioner Bob Harrison. Under the Directorship of Cindy Cotton, the program provides students with reading and math instruction, as well as enriching social activities.

" It is our goal that students will leave this program better prepared for the coming school year" said Cotton.

The current session began on Monday June 6, 2011 and will conclude on Thursday June 30, 2011. Students are fed a hot lunch daily and attend educational and cultural field trips in the community. Two weeks they were in attendance at



Pictured are students participating in the 6th annual NCLC Summer Enrichment Program sponsored by Commissioner Bob Harrison

the Groundbreaking ceremony for the Northwest Huntsville Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center.

52 students grades 1-8 are participating in the program. Teachers are encouraged to use interactive activities. These include immediate feedback, focused questions, praise and reinforcement, verbal drill and practice. These are just a few of the the time on task activities that are proven to produce positive results. Computer aided instruction is also utilized to aide students in choosing activities that capture their attention and motivate their desire to learn.

Each summer students complete a center wide project. For the 2011 Summer Session, the project is " A Study of the United States". Each student is assigned a state to research. After researching their state the students are required to prepare a poster, phamplet, booklet, or powerpoint presentation. Students will present their projects orally on June 29th, to an audience. The students will be judged by a panel, and the student delivering the best presentation will receive a \$50.00 award.

This is a phenomenal project, and special thanks to the NCLC Summer Staff:

Director- Cynthia Cotton
1st Grade: Velma Foster
2nd Grade: Delores Holden
3rd/ 4th Grade: James Foster
5th Grade: Pauline Occomy
6th: Grade: Kristy Maddox
7th/8th Grade: Justin Dimmock

Assistants: Supernia Waddle, James Dimmock, Kez Johnson, Kayla Erskine, and Jovani Occomy.

The Northwest Community Learning Center also provides tutoring assistance during the academic school year. For more information, contact Cindy Cotton at (256) 851-7242.

Commissioner Travels to China

Madison County Executives Examine China

From March 26 - April 3rd 2011, Commissioner Harrison and a group of Tennessee Valley Executives traveled to China. This trip was sponsored by the Huntsville/ Madison County Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the North Alabama Trade Association. Leaders spent seven days experiencing Chinese culture and examining China's

expanding industrial revolution. China's current population is currently five times that of the United States with over 1.4 billion people.

"The most intriguing part of the trip was the extraordinary number of new buildings under construction, and the always crowded public streets and facilities" said Commissioner Harrison.

Day 6 of the trip included a site visit to the Economic Development Zone in Hangzhou. Hangzhou is home to 33 institutions of higher learning, including the famous Zhejiang University. It also has more than 30 key national laboratories and technological centers.

The trip was well attended by both Huntsville Business and Political leadership. The group visited many traditional Chinese Landmarks, such as Tian An Men Square, and of course the Great Wall of China! The Great Wall is the only manmade structure that can be seen from outer space stretching over 4,000 miles across the Chinese/ Mongolian boarder.

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